



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement in Response to Economic and Environmental Coordinator, Mr. Bernard Snoy

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
January 19, 2006

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Snoy at his first appearance before the Permanent Council, and to thank him for his report.

The Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities has continued to carry out very important work since Mr. Snoy assumed his post a few months ago. The activities conducted by the Office and the field presences in this sphere are frequently cross-dimensional and help strengthen not only economies, but also democracy and security throughout the region.

A prime example of this work is what the Organization has done to combat terrorism financing. In December, for example, the Office of the Coordinator organized an anti-money laundering workshop in Ashgabat. Such national workshops assist states in raising awareness of criminal and terrorist financing, and help those states create and implement legislation to combat it.

Ongoing activities in the areas of good governance and combating corruption are helping participating States to address some of the issues most crucial to reforming their economies in ways that will better encourage and attract both domestic and foreign investment.

The Office's environmental activities are also of great importance to participating States as they try to deal with the legacy of contamination from previous governments whose only concern was rapid industrialization.

The first part of the Economic forum, to take place next week, will be an opportunity for participating States to openly discuss the issue of transportation and how it relates to economic development and to conflict resolution. The United States looks forward to hearing about ways in which the OSCE can add value in this area. An expert from my Government will discuss U.S. ideas for advancing Central Asian economic integration and strengthening ties to South Asia; transportation is a key element of this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the Permanent Council should ensure that the Office of the Coordinator, as well as Economic and Environmental officers in the field, have the flexibility and resources they need not only to continue their vital work, but to expand it.

Again, we thank Mr. Snoy for his report and look forward to working with him as he implements his program of activities in 2006.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.